

[Type here]

Children's Cabinet Work Group on Student Safety

Thursday, July 19, 2018

***Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room
Richmond, Virginia***

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Co-Chairs

The Honorable Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

The Honorable Atif Qarni, Secretary of Education

Members

Donna Michaelis, Manager, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Lisa Floyd, Ed.D., Deputy Director of Education, Department of Juvenile Justice

Nicole Gore, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services

Ellen White, Retired Judge, 24th Judicial District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts

Kelvin Wright, Chief of Police, City of Chesapeake Police Department

Brian Hieatt, Sheriff, County of Tazewell

Bobby Kipper, School Safety and Discipline Specialist, Department of Education

Patrick Stanfield, Ed.D., Principal, Midlothian Middle School

Carol Medawar, Virginia Director, National Education Association

Fred Orelove, Ph.D., Co-Chair of Schools Committee, Greater Richmond Trauma Informed Community Network

Richard Ponti, Director of Safety and Loss Control, Virginia Beach Public Schools

Dolores Robison, Ph.D., Supervisor of Threat Assessment, Prince William County Public Schools

Cole Fairchild, Student, Charlottesville High School

Sarah Gross, President, Virginia Parent Teacher Association

Cardell Patillo, Tidewater Chairman, Virginia School Board Association (substitute for Tyrone Foster)

Members Absent:

Benjamin Fernandez, School Psychologist and Coordinator of Prevention Services, Loudoun County Public Schools

Tyrone Foster, President-Elect, Virginia School Board Association

Mike Lawhorn, School Resource Officer, Campbell County Sheriff's Office
Stanley Jones, Ed.D., Superintendent, Danville Public Schools

Staff Present:

Shannon Dion, Director, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
James Lane, Ed.D., State Superintendent, Virginia Department of Education
Nicky Zamostny, Assistant Secretary, Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
Chidi Uche, Special Assistant, Secretary of Education
Jack Irvin, Policy Assistant, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Elizabeth Parker, Policy Assistant, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice
Karen Sullivan, Administrative Planning Specialist, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Opening Remarks:

Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
Atif Qarni, Secretary of Education

At 1:04pm, Secretary Moran opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. He had the members introduce themselves. Secretary Moran provided background on the creation of the work group and emphasized the importance of public safety, law enforcement, mental health, and education coming together to discuss issues impacting school and student safety. Secretary Qarni offered opening remarks, mentioning previous tragedies in Virginia such as the Virginia Tech shooting and highlighting the significance of work group's efforts.

Evolution of School Safety in Virginia Presentation:

Dr. Anne Atkinson, President, PolicyWorks Ltd.

At 1:12pm, Dr. Atkinson began her presentation. She provided an overview of the history of school safety in Virginia, drawing from her professional experience as a school division administrator, juvenile court administrator, and author of numerous documents for both the Department of Education and the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Her presentation covered developments, such as legislation, studies, and state agency programs, from both education and public safety perspectives.

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Presentation:

Donna Michaelis, Manager, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

At 1:30pm, Shannon Dion, Director of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), introduced Donna Michaelis. Ms. Michaelis described her background in local law enforcement and state government. She then presented on the history of the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, including legislative changes, current mandates, studies, and trainings offered. Copies of the presentation were provided and a copy can be found on the Children's Cabinet website.

Virginia Department of Education Presentation:

Bobby Kipper, School Safety and Discipline Specialist, Virginia Department of Education

At 2:02pm, Dr. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Virginia Department of Education (DOE), introduced Mr. Kipper. Mr. Kipper described his background and presented on DOE's multi-tiered systems of support strategy. The presentation contained information on DOE's efforts to address physical and psychological safety. Secretary Moran asked several clarifying questions about school counselor ratios and how the \$6 million in grants that DOE distributes for security equipment grants can be spent and whether they are typically used for metal detectors. Copies of the presentation were provided and a copy can be found on the Children's Cabinet website.

Panel of Local Experts:

Moderator: Dr. Anne Atkinson

Brian Hieatt, Sheriff, County of Tazewell

Dr. Patrick Stanfield, Principal, Midlothian Middle School

Sarah Gross, President, Virginia Parent Teacher Association

Dr. Fred Orelove, Co-Chair of Schools Committee, Greater Richmond Trauma Informed Community Network

The panel convened at 2:46pm. The members of the panel introduced themselves and offered opening remarks. The panel discussed policies that panel members felt were working in their localities, the importance of trauma informed care, the effectiveness of data sharing policies, parental concerns, and the need for sharing information about current policies with parents.

Facilitated Discussion:

Facilitator: Dr. Anne Atkinson

At 3:17pm, Dr. Atkinson opened the discussion. The work group discussed the threat assessment process and the importance of school resource officers, teachers, and staff as mentors for students. Mental health issues and helping children return to school after facing trauma were also discussed. The roles of different personnel, such as school resource officers and school counselors, were discussed. Some members expressed concern that children may be going to resource officers for mental health issues that may be better addressed by school counselors and school psychologists. Other members clarified that resource officers may be the first point of contact with a student in need and can help serve as a bridge to connect them with appropriate services. Various group members discussed the importance of recognizing that different schools have different characteristics and those differences need to be taken into account when developing policies.

Closing Remarks:

Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Atif Qarni, Secretary of Education

Secretary Moran and Secretary Qarni thanked the members for attending and urged them to provide recommendations for presenters and agenda items for the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.